



**NEW MEXICO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**  
**Continuing Education Requirement**  
**For Certified Court Interpreters and Justice System Interpreters**

**I. Purpose**

Becoming and remaining a skilled interpreter in the courtroom is an ongoing process that is not completed with certification. Certified interpreters should always be working to improve their legal knowledge, their English language and grammar skills, and their language and grammar skills in their certified language.

In order to promote and enhance this continuing education process the New Mexico Supreme Court Interpreter Advisory Committee has adopted these continuing education rules that apply to all New Mexico interpreters, and all federally certified interpreters who seek reimbursement at the state certified or justice system interpreter rates.

**II. Reporting Requirements**

- A. This Continuing Education rule becomes effective January 1, 2009. The deadline for reporting completion of required continuing education will be December 31st each year.
- B. All certified and justice system interpreters must fulfill these continuing education requirements. If these requirements are not met, the interpreter will be reimbursed at the non-certified rate until these requirements are met.
- C. All newly certified interpreters shall have until December 31st of the year after certification to fulfill his or her initial continuing education requirement. After that initial education period, the newly certified interpreter will complete the continuing education each year by December 31st.
- D. The Administrative Office of the Courts will prepare and distribute standard reporting forms to use when reporting continuing education. All continuing education documentation shall be mailed or faxed to:  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Interpreter Services Continuing Education  
237 Don Gaspar, Room 25 Santa Fe, NM 87501  
505 824-4824 (fax)

E. The certified interpreter shall provide adequate documentation of successful completion of the continuing education requirement. Documentation may include certificate of completion, transcript or grade report, or proof of membership and meeting attendance.

### **III. Annual Continuing Education Requirements**

#### **Membership in a Professional Interpreter Association**

Each certified interpreter shall belong to at least one professional association related to interpreting. Qualified organizations include:

1. American Translators Association [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)
2. National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators  
[www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org) or
3. New Mexico Translators and Interpreters Association  
[www.cybermesa.com/~nmtia](http://www.cybermesa.com/~nmtia)
4. El Paso Interpreters and Translators Association  
[www.metroplexepita.org](http://www.metroplexepita.org)
5. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (for signed language interpreters only) [www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)
6. Other organizations may be approved by the Interpreter Advisory Committee on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Participation in Interpreter Relevant Education or Training**

In addition to membership in a professional association, each person shall also complete twenty (20) hours of AOC-approved professional education, including at least two hours of ethics related training, every two years, effective January 1, 2011. There are several options available to meet this requirement including, but not limited to:

1. Attend and participate in the New Mexico Interpreters' Annual Conference, an AOC or New Mexico Center for Language Access professional development opportunity, or a nationally recognized interpreter related conference or
2. Successfully complete a relevant course at an accredited community or four year college. This must be a course for credit for at least 3 credit hours and is relevant to interpreting or legal issues or
3. Successfully complete a continuing legal education course approved by the New Mexico State Bar Association of at least three credit hours and relevant to interpreting or legal issues.

A provider of professional education may request pre-approval for New Mexico continuing education hours by providing the AOC with the following information for the course or training event:

1. Topic/s with Content Outline;

2. Trainer/s Resume;
3. Training Hours by Topic.

Relevant subject matter includes: professional issues, terminology, translation, legal issues, modes of interpreting, and cultural awareness. If a person or organization wishes to receive continuing education credit for courses outside these general areas, the request will be forwarded to the Court Interpreter Advisory Committee for approval.



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Arthur W. Pepin, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts

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